



## Minutes of General Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024

### **Present:**

David Maunders, Cecily Woodberry, David Woodberry, Don Johnstone, Bonnie Taylor Andrea Cleland; Sara Fleming; Adrian Hales; Christine Grayden; John Eddy; Tricia Olsen; Graeme Clausen; Tom O'Dea via Zoom.

**Apologies:** Robyn Holman; Terry Holman; Doug Dendle; Linda Dendle; Paul Black; Karen Black; Trevor Little; Ruth O'Dea.

David opened the meeting and apologised that the minutes of the November meeting had not been sent out and will be circulated shortly.

### **Correspondence:**

David reported that Dr Gary Hill, from Minerva Heritage will be visiting on Thursday & Friday of next week to start the restoration project. He wants to look at historic photos showing the materials used. Two committee members will meet him and discuss projects with him. Andrea will look for good quality original photos and leave for him.

Suggestions of online marketing of our book from Christine were adopted.

### **President's report:**

On 2 February, Cecily, David & David attended the Victorian Community History Awards and received a Commendation Award, in the Historical Interpretation category, for the Whispers from the Past video. David thanked all those who had contributed and produced the video.

Once Upon an Island also received an award in a different category.

There were mixed feelings about the Carols & performance which attempted to show a Christmas of 1889. The international audience was a bit puzzled. We will review what we do in future.

Nellie & Charlie are very successfully offering wagon rides.

The original Clydesdales were purchased for CI by FOCIS.

The piano in the dining room is being played regularly and is being tuned.

## ***Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.***

Registration Number: A0021907W

ABN: 78667051020

PO Box 852, COWES VIC 3922

Following meetings with Kerry (Volunteer organiser) we will log all work done by volunteers.

Chloe is to update the volunteer information & discussion of rostering will be included at the volunteer meeting.

Nature Parks (NP) has a new management structure. We will be having meetings with those now in charge of Churchill Island (CI).

The touch Screen for the visitors' centre is to be followed up. It was in the NP budget.

We have money in the bank set aside for Accreditation of the museum and want to get it going. Location unknown. Another building? Is the café moving? No decisions yet.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Tom reported that our assets have decreased due to expenses. The term deposit gives us some good interest but the bank account negligible.

The Bush dance was a small financial loss but excellent PR.

We continue to "live within our means" with a small surplus.

Memberships fell by 37 to 197. This is concerning and Tom wrote to all lapsed members and did not gain one further renewal. Despite the drop in membership, we should still be able to invest in projects to meet our mission.

Concession members are subsidised by other members.

Move to accept the treasurer's report: Tom; Seconded Don. Carried.

**Restoration Report:** Geoff is absent but reported that we are waiting for wood for the gun carriage repair. Andrea is to draft a sign to go by the dray in keeping with NP style/branding/

**Farm Manager's report:** Peter welcomed the new NP managers.

Curator's report: will be posted in the Newsletter

Wagon rides have been a huge success.

We have high levels of visits from international tourists who report a 93% value for money and "very good satisfaction" from their visit.

### **General Business:**

Christine Graydon raised the issue of our Horticulturalist. We need one 5 days/week. Still trying to get this despite the 2018 accreditation report stating it should be 5 days/week for a horticulturalist and 2 days for a curator.

There is a huge workload and it is an Historic garden.

Reaccreditation will be a huge task. We need more hours for the curator to achieve this.

***Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.***

Registration Number: A0021907W

ABN: 78667051020

PO Box 852, COWES VIC 3922

**Christine moved:** That the president write to the CEO to request 5 + 2 as per the 2018 report. Seconded: Graeme Clausen. Carried.

We will have Dan Kallstrom, the new attraction manager Koala Conservation Reserve & Churchill Island NP, as the speaker for our next meeting.

A sign on the door of the meeting room saying "Meeting In Progress" would be desirable.

Concern was expressed regarding the Camille Monet sculpture. Children climb on it and it is disrespected. It needs to be protected by a barrier and it would be good to have a sign to tell visitors what it is and by whom.

The meeting closed at 2.13pm

Andrea Cleland gave a presentation regarding accreditation. Her slides will be available on the website.